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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 4 May 1992, at 3.00 p.m.

President: Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND:

(a) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR 1991 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES;

(b) COUNTRY PROGRAMMES;

(c) FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(agenda item 7) (continued) (DP/1992/24, parts I, II and III; and DP/1992/25-34)

1. Mr. MUKAI (Japan), having thanked the Executive Director of the UNFPA for her informative and comprehensive statement and expressed his appreciation of the recently issued report entitled State of World Population, 1992, said that the world's total population, which had exceeded 5 billion in July 1987, was expected to reach 10 billion by the year 2050. Such growth would cause serious deterioration in the economic and social conditions of the developing countries, and would have the gravest consequences for the global environment and the future of the entire human race. The urgency of the problem posed an enormous challenge which could be met only through a determined effort and the pooling of knowledge.

2. At the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in November 1989, it had been unanimously agreed that, in the year 2000, the nations of the world would have to spend a minimum of US$ 9 billion on population-related activities. Given the current rate of increase in the resources allocated to population activities, that figure seemed difficult to attain and every effort would have to be made to mobilize the necessary resources. While the developing countries should promote self-help efforts to implement population programmes, the problem was nevertheless a global one and should be dealt with within a comprehensive global framework through a more integrated approach.

3. Unless the necessary resources were mobilized and effective measures adopted to control population growth during the 1990s, the problem would be out of control. However, the population problem had become widely recognized by policy makers and the general public in both developed and developing countries and the need to halt the vicious cycle of poverty, population growth and degradation of the environment was generally accepted.

4. The population problem would be on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and in 1994 the International Conference on Population and Development would provide an excellent opportunity to find ways of addressing the problem. His delegation welcomed the many preparatory meetings scheduled at the regional and expert level and urged the developing and the developed countries alike to do their utmost to ensure the success of that Conference.

5. With regard to the activities of UNFPA, his delegation was concerned that income in 1991 had fallen short of projections, increasing by only 5.6 per cent over the previous year. UNFPA should make further efforts to increase its resources. In that connection, it was gratifying to note that both Gabon and Guinea had made their first contributions to the Fund in 1991, and that 1991 had seen full and efficient utilization of resources. It was to be hoped that these results would be repeated in the future.

6. His Government supported UNFPA's continuing policy of increasing the resources allocated to the sub-Saharan region, but was concerned at the downward trend in the share of resources going to Asian countries. Since population growth was a very serious problem in Asia, especially in the South Asian countries, the resources allocated to them should be increased by maintaining the current percentage allocation.

7. It was gratifying to see that expenditure in the areas of family planning and related information, education and communication activities was increasing, especially in the IEC field. His delegation supported the increase in expenditure on programmes related to women on account of the positive impact of their education and enhancement of status on efforts to reduce population growth, as had been seen in Sri Lanka and in the Indian State of Kerala.

8. With regard to the work plan for 1993-1996 and request for programme expenditure authority (DP/1992/26), the Secretariat's projection of US$ 864.9 million for new programmable resources, based upon income projections with an average annual increase of 8 per cent, was realistic in view of the recent trend in the generation of UNFPA revenue. His delegation supported the work plan and hoped that UNFPA would maintain that realistic approach in future years. The projected increase in the Administrative Progamme and Support Services (APSS) budget of 6 per cent per annum for the same period, 2 per cent less than the increase in income, was also welcome.

9. His delegation strongly supported the UNICEF-UNFPA collaborative programming activities (DP/1992/28). They had proved to be very useful and it was to be hoped that they would be pursued and expanded in the future. Such activities would increase the effectiveness of family planning and improve Maternal and Child Health (MCH). At the field level in particular, therefore, collaboration and coordination should continue to be enhanced. In that connection, UNFPA should make greater use of UNICEF regional offices to formulate and implement programmes in countries where it had no offices of its own.

10. His delegation had read with concern the progress report on UNFPA successor support cost arrangements (DP/1992/30) but was pleased to note that the new arrangements had been introduced in January 1992. The proposal made by UNFPA to the Governing Council at its previous session had been most welcome, since it appeared likely to contribute to more effective and efficient technical backstopping and to help recipient countries strengthen their ability to formulate and implement family-planning programmes. His delegation, which supported the arrangements made so far and looked forward to seeing them function in a smooth and efficient way, hoped that UNFPA would report to the Governing Council in 1993 on the progress made.

11. With regard to the report on a medium-term operational strategy (DP/1992/31), he considered that UNFPA should make further efforts to bring about decentralization and to achieve economies and efficiency in its administrative budget.

12. In view of the positive steps already taken towards making UNFPA a more effective and efficient organization, his Government had every confidence in the Fund's ability to face the great challenges that lay ahead and to carry out its important mission. It would accordingly continue to provide UNFPA with all possible assistance.

13. Mr. JAMTOMO (Indonesia) said that, according to the International Development Strategy for the 1990s, that decade would witness the largest increase in the populations of the developing countries in history, putting enormous pressure on natural and ecological resources and posing formidable obstacles to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Population problems were thus among the foremost challenges facing the world. As the Executive Director's report (DP/1992/24) rightly stated, the only hope of reversing such trends was through concerted action to achieve a sustainable balance between human populations, a wiser use of resources and sustained development. Therein lay the vital task of the international community and of UNFPA.

14. As the fifth most populous country in the world, Indonesia attached the utmost importance to the resolution of population problems and to the work and activities of the UNFPA. Population policy measures, like effective development strategies, required the participation of the people themselves, and, in that context, women had a central role to play. All programmes must take both the productive and reproductive roles of women fully into account.

15. Since women's choices and decisions were central to the success of population plans, it was vital that their socio-economic situation be improved and their access to education, health, employment and participation in decision-making opportunities ensured. There had also been a growing recognition in recent years of the complex interrelationships between population growth, development and environmental concerns, which was to be the thrust of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

16. It was gratifying to note from the Executive Director's report that many positive developments in recent years had set the scene for accelerated progress in the 1990s. However, while significant progress was being registered in both the developed and the developing countries, absolute population growth figures were still rising. Unless rapid population growth was reduced considerably in ways compatible with national cultures and values, vast portions of the human race were doomed to poverty and its accompanying ills.

17. In that context, there was a marked discrepancy between the advances made in the developed and developing countries. Much of that disparity was due to development levels, but it resulted also from too little population assistance to the developing countries. While the Amsterdam Declaration of 1989 had called for a doubling of the sums spent on population programmes in the 1990s

up to an annual total of US$ 9 billion by the year 2000, the trends in resource mobilization for such population programmes had decreased in terms of official development assistance (ODA) since the 1970s. His delegation therefore supported the UNFPA proposal that all developed countries should pledge themselves to increase their proportion of the ODA for population activities to 4 per cent by the year 2000. If that level could be achieved, the population policies of the International Development Strategy could be effectively implemented and would in turn have the effect of reducing poverty and environmental degradation.

18. Family planning was an important dimension of population management and UNFPA's assistance in that area, of $93.7 million over 500 country and intercountry projects, was most welcome. His delegation noted that the countries of the Asian and Pacific region had received almost 46 per cent of that amount, and it urged further assistance in that area, including support for the Safe Motherhood Initiative. In that connection, UNFPA had contributed greatly in Indonesia over the past two decades to reducing the fertility rate from 5.6 per cent to 3 per cent. Moreover, the UNFPA system had facilitated the enactment of the law of population dynamics and development of prosperous families in 1992. Nevertheless, there had been a considerable reduction in the funding of the Indonesian country programme for 1992.

19. At the regional level, UNFPA's assistance was substantial and its impact was well recognized. The Asia and Pacific region was no exception but, although fertility rates were falling, sizeable population increases in the region continued, due to the past momentum of population growth rates, and remained a major obstacle to development. The consequent rapid pace of urbanization was unsustainable and constituted a serious threat to the environment. Population, environmental and development strategies should therefore be integrated.

20. In the area of policy and programme coordination, UNFPA's role was to strengthen a country's capacity to fulfil its coordination responsibilities, while at the same time placing great importance on the role of the resident coordinator. Closely aligned with those efforts was UNFPA's support and promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) in the field of population and development. TCDC projects had proved very beneficial in promoting local participation and population programmes and the assistance of UNFPA in identifying, formulating and implementing TCDC activities had great impact and importance.

21. One of Indonesia's major population problems was the need to absorb the estimated 2 million entrants into the labour force each year. His Government was aware that, in order to avoid a recurring problem in the future, population growth had to be decelerated and the population turned into an asset by improving its quality through human resources development. While agreeing, therefore, with the conceptual linkages between population and the environment, it also saw the relevance of conceptually linking population and human resources development.

22. Indonesia had always attached great importance to the mandate and activities of the UNFPA and had greatly benefited from its expertise and programmes. Its contribution to the UNFPA ranked third among its contributions to United Nations programmes and funds. Through its national population and family-planning programme, his Government had vigorously pursued a two-pronged population policy. An aggressive family-planning programme spanned the country and a transmigration programme, designed to relocate people from high density areas to those more sparsely populated but with greater economic promise, had resulted in a measurable degree of success.

23. A distinctive characteristic of Indonesia's massive and successful family-planning programme was its emphasis on community-based initiatives, management, evaluation and control. That approach not only helped generate local leadership but also guaranteed greater self-reliance. In that context, Indonesia's development plans and population policies closely paralleled those of UNFPA. He hoped, therefore, that the excellent cooperation between UNFPA and Indonesia could be enhanced to respond to the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

24. His delegation was looking forward to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development which should incorporate the vitally important dimension of population into the concept of sustainable development. The Conference would be the first such gathering to examine that relationship, and the international community should make timely preparations with a view to formulating innovative, effective and implementable policy measures. In that respect, it was to be hoped that the preparatory meetings would prove fruitful and productive.

25. Ms. McSWEENY (Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers Programme) said that the collaboration between UNV and UNFPA was particularly significant, largely because both organizations worked with and for people. There were 34 United Nations volunteer specialists currently serving in projects executed by UNFPA or financed by the Fund and executed by a range of United Nations bodies, including the ILO, the Division of Technical Cooperation for Development (DTCD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNESCO and WHO. Another 12 United Nations volunteer specialists were about to be sent into the field. All worked on a peer basis with their national colleagues.

26. Their contributions spanned the priority areas of the strategy approved by the Governing Council in 1991, notably, assistance with capacity building in population statistics and census-taking in Burundi, Namibia, Somalia and other countries; study and training in population affairs in Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay; strengthening maternal and child health, perinatal services and family planning in Albania, Angola, Bhutan and Jordan; population education in Benin, and the training of women in Cameroon, Mali and Sudan.

27. Two thirds of the United Nations volunteer specialists were working on UNFPA support programmes in the least developed countries, and more than a third of them were women. With the approach of the fourth International Conference on Population and Development, UNV would like to see the population dimension enhanced in the strategies underpinning its activities overall and

its own relevant and effective collaboration with UNFPA doubled, provided it was kept in mind at all times that the prime goal was to facilitate essentially indigenous initiatives and the training of nationals themselves to design, implement and execute their own population programmes.

28. At the regional level, that could be accomplished by associating UNV demographers, statisticians and logistics specialists with the UNFPA regional teams in formulating population policies. At the national level, it could be accomplished by involving UNVs in teams with national professionals in Government and NGO public information and education campaigns. At the local level, it could be achieved by drawing on the increasing numbers of UNV medical and social personnel experienced in HIV/AIDS prevention and counselling.

29. It was also important that UNV and UNFPA should work increasingly together on such matters as child spacing and the key roles of women in development, in addressing total livelihood concerns in participatory ways in the community. Such work would include optimal local resources management, which was inextricably linked to population dynamics, as the Executive Director had emphasized in her introductory statement.

30. The particular strength of the United Nations Volunteers lay in their work in the community. They were professional, committed and cost-effective. Some 82 per cent of them were from developing countries and they brought an important South-South exchange to the job.

31. The concern for people-centred sustainable development had been paramount in the thinking at the UNV's Third Intergovernmental Meeting, held in December 1991, at which the Executive Director of the UNFPA had been represented. Together with her deputy and other UNFPA headquarters and field colleagues, she was to be commended for the way in which she had spontaneously sought to enhance cooperation with UNVs. The quality of the UNV specialists' contribution within the UNFPA framework was assured and the partnership needed only to be redoubled.

32. Ms. MAGUIRE (United States of America) commended the UNFPA on its two reports, Population and the Environment: the Challenges Ahead and State of World Population, 1992, the latter focusing on the theme of population and sustainable development. Rapid population growth could and did hinder economic development by creating pressure on scarce resources and rendering it difficult for Governments to make the necessary capital investments for sustainable long-term economic growth. Rapid population growth also hindered social development by placing heavy demands on national programmes to meet such basic human needs as food, shelter, health services and education. In addition, the serious health consequences for women and children of high fertility, unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortion were well known.

33. Over the past two decades, Governments had increasingly demonstrated their understanding of those fundamental relationships by taking steps to reduce rapid population growth and making voluntary family-planning services widely available. As a result of those programmes, the total fertility rate

in the developing countries had declined by about one third and the contraceptive prevalence rate had increased to more than 50 per cent of married couples.

34. Those achievements were important, but they were only a beginning. In order to achieve the fertility rates implied by the United Nations medium population projections, contraceptive prevalence in the developing world would have to increase from the current level of approximately 50 per cent to about 59 per cent by the year 2000, and continue increasing to about 75 per cent before replacement fertility was attained.

35. While the increase from 50 to 59 per cent during the 1990s might appear to be a modest goal, there would be large increases in the number of women of reproductive age during that period, due to population momentum resulting from high rates of population growth in the past. Many additional family-planning users would therefore have to be recruited just to "run in place" with even more users needed to move forward.

36. A recent study prepared for UNFPA had estimated that the total number of contraceptive users in the developing world alone in the year 2000 would have to be some 567 million to meet the United Nations medium population projection. That compared with an estimated 381 million users in 1990, and would require a 50 per cent increase in contraceptive users in just a decade.

37. The attainment of those goals would require a tremendous mobilization of effort to satisfy the existing widespread demand for high-quality voluntary family-planning services. Priorities for action should include, in particular, the removal of policy or medical barriers to full access to effective modern contraception; the training of additional service-delivery personnel; stimulation of additional family-planning service-delivery activities in the private and commercial sectors; strengthening of family-planning management and logistics systems; improvements in the quality of family planning, including better client counselling and improved method-specific information; and better monitoring and evaluation of family-planning programme performance.

38. Two priorities for family-planning assistance deserved special mention. The first was the need to plan effectively for the large anticipated increase in the volume of contraceptive commodities that would have to be procured and shipped to consumers. According to the study cited above, the annual cost of contraceptives would increase from some US$ 399 million in 1990 to some US$ 627 million in 2000. Since the majority of those contraceptives would be delivered through public-sector programmes, a substantial increase in donor-provided commodities would be required. In that connection, it was gratifying to note that a number of donors were already responding to the challenge. For example, in Bangladesh, the European Community had assumed a major role in the provision of contraceptives and several donors were sharing the burden in Kenya. UNFPA was to be commended on its excellent ongoing efforts to coordinate global and country-specific studies of contraceptive requirements.

39. The second programme priority was the need for better programme evaluation. If the family-planning challenges of the next decade were to be met, all international agencies, bilateral donors, developing-country Governments and NGOs would have to do everything possible to maximize the impact and effectiveness of the family-planning and maternal and child health programmes. Indeed failure to do so would be to squander precious resources. Her delegation noted with appreciation the excellent report on evaluation (DP/1992/25) prepared by UNFPA for the current session of the Governing Council and would comment upon it at a later stage.

40. USAID was taking the need for improved programme evaluation very seriously. During the past year, it had launched a major new population programme evaluation project entitled "Evaluation of Family-Planning Programme Impact" under the leadership of the University of North Carolina Population Centre. The objectives of that project were to develop and apply consistently-defined indicators of family-planning impact for use across population projects and programmes, and to facilitate the inclusion of appropriate impact indicators in new population projects and programmes at the design stage.

41. Representatives of UNFPA and other multilateral and bilateral organizations had agreed to serve on the Policy Advisory Group for that project.

42. The United States, through its population assistance programme at USAID, currently accounted for approximately 45 per cent of donor funding for international population programmes and remained committed to doing its share in addressing the many challenges of the next decade and beyond. In so doing, it looked forward to working closely with UNFPA and other donors and agencies.

43. Mr. LONG Yuntu (China) said that his delegation had noted with satisfaction the achievements of UNFPA in 1991 and the strenuous efforts made by the Fund in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Based on the experience of his own and many other developing countries, only effective control of excessive population growth and an improvement in national education standards would bring about a stable socio-economic development and the improvement of the people's living and ethical standards. It was essential that the international community should reach a consensus with regard to population and development and formulate new strategies to implement correct demographic aims.

44. The fertility rate in the developing countries was still 3.8 per cent, and the population forecast for the year 2001 was 6.4 billion, 95 per cent of the new births taking place in developing countries. It was accordingly essential to step up international cooperation and mobilize all possible resources to meet the urgent needs for contraceptives and family-planning services. Against that background, the outcome of the 1992 UNFPA pledging conference had been disappointing. Due to the shortage of funds, UNFPA was already facing cuts in its annual budget ceilings, cuts of sufficient significance to interfere with the social development plans of the recipient countries.

45. At the thirty-eighth session of the Governing Council, his delegation had called for a step-by-step transition to national execution of UNFPA-assisted projects, an initiative which had met with a positive response. Self-reliance through national execution had to be built up in a gradual manner, and every opportunity should be taken to introduce incentive measures in national execution guidelines, for example by providing a percentage of project overhead costs (e.g. 1-1.5 per cent) in order to promote implementation at the national level. He hoped that the Governing Council would give favourable consideration to that proposal.

46. Mr. SEED (New Zealand) said that the Executive Director, while presenting some sobering statistics on anticipated increases in world population, had identified the potential which existed for slowing population growth. One reason for believing that the potential could be realized was the often-voiced commitment of the international community to addressing population concerns.

47. While some delegations to the fourth UNCED Preparatory Committee meeting would have preferred stronger references to population issues, it was nevertheless encouraging that countries had been able to agree that population, poverty, consumption patterns and sustainability were inextricably linked and had to be addressed in an integrated fashion. Those were the foundations on which it was necessary to build for the success of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. It would be vital to ensure that the commitments made by Governments at the Earth Summit were translated into concrete action. UNFPA had an important and continuing role in the implemention of population programmes capable of promoting sustainable development.

48. The importance of human-resources development and capacity building - in particular the education and training of women - could not be overemphasized. The availability of family-planning services was an essential aspect of women's health care, which was closely linked with the advancement of women.

49. His delegation was reassured by the attention which the Fund continued to pay to the small island developing countries in the Pacific. Population growth rates in the capitals of atoll nations were high, rivalling those of the mega-cities of Asia. In their report to UNCED, the countries of the Pacific Islands had specifically highlighted the importance they attached to continued guidance and programme assistance in addressing population issues. The Fund still had an important part to play in assisting development in the South Pacific region while, at the same time, safeguarding the distinct cultural identity of the island countries concerned.

50. Whereas UNFPA's assistance to those countries had traditionally been delivered through country-specific projects, a comprehensive, region-wide population programme had recently been put forward, based on the recommendations of the Programme Review and Strategy Development mission to the South Pacific subregion in 1991. The new programme was a great step forward. At a time when demands for resources were increasing all the time, he was pleased to see them so effectively deployed by UNFPA.

51. Mr. AFANASIEV (Russian Federation) said that his country, which was itself facing serious population problems, attached great importance to the work of UNFPA. He appreciated the way in which the Fund had built on the sound foundations of the international conferences on World Population in 1974, 1984 and 1989. Special attention had rightly been paid to the role of family-planning and social policy in meeting the basic humanitarian demands of populations throughout the world. Only in that way could the international community overcome the increasingly acute demographic problems with which it was faced. In addition to specific aid programmes, UNFPA had contributed greatly to the enlightenment of the developing countries by the distribution of demographic information, raising the level of women's education and emphasizing maternal and child health and the importance of manpower management.

52. As was generally known, the Russian Federation had assumed the rights and obligations of the erstwhile Soviet Union. That involved not only the obligation to render aid to the developing countries, but also the right to benefit from their demographic experience when attempting to solve its own problems in that field. One specific problem faced by the Federation was the steadily falling birthrate, coupled with an increasing mortality (12.1/1,000 birthrate as against 11.4/1,000 mortality in 1991). Further difficulties had been created by the steady flow of Russian-speaking refugees into Russia, for whom relief measures had to be adopted, and the continuing backlash of the Chernobyl disaster. A number of programmes had been elaborated in the Federation specifically for children, which it was hoped would reverse the current - very worrying - trend of a decline in population.

53. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) said that the high priority which his Government attached to family planning in the context of population and development could be gauged from the initiative launched in August 1991, entitled "Children by choice not by chance". It was vital that women should be able to choose when to have children. Secondly, United Kingdom aid programme expenditure had more than trebled since 1980, amounting in 1990 - the last year for which figures were available - to £24 million, 28 per cent up on the 1989 level. Expenditure would increase further in future years, with the establishment of at least 15 new projects aimed at strengthening the coverage and quality of family-planning and maternal health services and improving the reliability of the available contraceptives. It was planned to provide support for both public-sector programmes and innovative schemes.

54. UNFPA had, of course, an important role to play in providing quality reproductive services in the developing countries, but it was necessary at the same time to demonstrate the effective use of the resources invested, in other words to show that donors were getting "value for money". When assessing future contributions, donors would wish to examine carefully UNFPA's objectives, the extent to which they met changing needs, opportunities and constraints and how far those objectives were being efficiently achieved. Since UNFPA was not an executing agency, the other United Nations agencies, NGOs and national Governments acting on behalf of the Fund would also have to demonstrate their effectiveness. If their performance did not pass muster, UNFPA should have no hesitation in selecting other executing agencies.

55. His Government was concerned at the variability of UNFPA country programmes. Good country programmes were dependent on sound analysis, clearly defined strategies which took account of available resources and any constraints, suitability to the particular populations and effective implementation. In his experience, those requirements had not been met in all cases of late. UNFPA was fully entitled - and indeed had a duty - to evaluate the effectiveness of PRSD programmes and he would welcome a meeting of interested parties to discuss the lessons arising out of such an evaluation. He would also like to see UNFPA country offices more active in controlling in-country coordination.

56. Family planning had become an urgent need, if women were to be set free to complete their education and participate in productive activities. A number of proven approaches to family planning were currently available which, if adopted, would be likely to release additional human resources for population activities in general. While acknowledging UNFPA's great and successful efforts in meeting global contraceptive requirements, country programmes had still to concentrate on the development of family-planning services and the availability of contraceptives within the countries in question.

57. He endorsed the concern, which had been generally expressed, that UNFPA income in 1992 would fall below the level envisaged at the last session of the Governing Council. Aid funds were generally short at the current juncture and aid programmes were increasingly outstripping the funds available. The ODA had made it clear that population was a development priority for United Kingdom aid programmes and he hoped that other countries would follow suit. His Government had, in fact, increased its contribution to UNFPA by 28 per cent in 1992 (from £6 million to £9 million). That made it abundantly clear that UNFPA would remain an important channel for British population assistance.

58. Mr. CART (Switzerland) said that it was indeed important to highlight the role of UNFPA in matters of "human development" which affected so closely the nature of society itself. That was clearly the course which the Fund was steering and he was therefore pleased to announce that his Government had been able to increase its financial contribution for that specific purpose.

59. The Executive Director's report had been very frank in listing not only the Fund's successes during the year but also some of the difficulties that had been encountered. The first point which his delegation wished to raise was that perhaps an attempt had been made in the report to cover too wide a range of subjects, with the result that each of them had been compressed into two or three lines. It might have been better to select individual points of particular importance, listing the successes and analysing the reasons for failures, supported by relevant statistical information, so as to give the members of the Governing Council a general picture of the Fund's most important activities.

60. The report suggested that there were problems of coordination between UNFPA and other United Nations agencies, and his delegation was not entirely clear as to UNFPA's exact role in that regard. It nevertheless considered that UNFPA was pursuing a correct methodological approach in making population

activities supportive of other development activities. In the field of education, for instance, there was no need to re-create curricula; the problem was rather to add population issues to the existing curricula.

61. Although he agreed with the Executive Director that population activities needed greater support, he was unable to accept the definition of goals in terms of statistical percentages. Teachers at both the primary and secondary levels had an important role to play in terms of instilling basic attitudes on the issue of child-bearing. They were in a position to change the attitudes of pupils but formed an integral part of the educational system appropriate to the needs of the particular country. Statistically speaking, therefore, such teachers could hardly be included under the rubric "population" rather than "education".

62. His delegation noted with regret that, during the recent preparatory work for UNCED, the consensus which had apparently been reached on access to family planning seemed to have been undermined for reasons which were not fully clear. It hoped that the issue would be discussed in a calmer atmosphere at Rio de Janeiro, so that population dynamics would not become controversial for other reasons. The results of UNCED would be decisive for the success of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, to which his Government attached the highest priority. Delicate issues such as that of migration policy would require careful preparation.

63. Mrs. DRZEWIENIECKA (Poland) said that her Government greatly appreciated the cooperation of UNFPA and strove constantly to broaden that collaboration. Thanks to UNFPA technical assistance, Poland had, in 1989, embarked upon three research programmes (on fertility, infant mortality and family breakdown, respectively) which would terminate in the current year.

64. Population policy in Poland was coordinated by the Government Commission on Population which had collaborated closely with UNFPA for several years and would continue such collaboration in the future. Such cooperation had been greatly facilitated by the establishment of a UNDP office in Warsaw.

65. Her country was in a difficult stage of social and economic transformation and had encountered major obstacles to development over the previous two years. The result had been a serious recession and growing unemployment which, at the end of March 1992, was 12.2 per cent of the active population. The number of unemployed was expected to increase by the end of 1992 to 17-19 per cent of the active population.

66. According to revised United Nations demographic forecasts, the active population of Poland would increase by 3.1 million in the period 1991-2005, as compared with 7 million for the whole of Europe. In other words, Poland would contribute 44 per cent of the overall growth of the European working population. Such growth would lead to a number of difficult problems for the social and economic policy of the country, as reflected in the UNFPA's country programme for Poland for 1992-1996.

67. In that programme, special attention would have to be paid to problems of international migration, with particular reference to the availability of work in Poland and in the rest of Europe. The situation represented a serious challenge to the social policy of her Government.

68. The Government's main concern was to lessen the negative impact of deteriorating social conditions on health conditions and family planning. During the 1980s, the fertility rate of women in Poland had been 2 per cent. The birth rate had fallen from 19.7 per mille in 1983 to 14.3 per mille in 1990, reflecting the growing acceptance of family planning. Infant mortality was however falling too slowly, from 21.3 per thousand live births in 1986 to 19.4 in 1990.

69. The increased mortality of men of working age had become a serious demographic problem. In 1991, the mortality rate for men had risen to 1,377 per 100,000 of the total population, whereas that for women had been 755. The increase in the number of premature deaths in the 45-64 age category was a matter of serious concern.

70. An interministerial working group had been established to develop a national programme for Poland in connection with UNDP's fifth programming cycle. The working group would base its recommendations on the report (DP/1992/24, Part I) and the advisory note of the UNFPA mission.

71. Pursuant to the recommendations of the World Plan of Action and the Amsterdam Declaration, Poland would share its researches on demographic problems and hoped that Polish experts would participate to an increasing extent in UNFPA missions to and programmes in developing countries.

72. Ms. PRADEL (Germany) said that it was intolerable that, at a time when almost worldwide agreement had been reached on the need for population policies and family planning programmes, resources to meet the increased demand for such services were still inadequate. Family planning might still, perhaps, be regarded as an issue of women's concern and thus as a matter of limited interest in the continuing male-dominated national and international arenas of so-called "grand politics". It was high time, therefore, that the growing concern for human development should come to be understood as relating to humankind and not to mankind alone.

73. Investment in women, and especially in their education, was crucial for their own reproductive well-being but also for the social and economic well-being of the nations. Any comprehensive and serious population programme therefore must address girls' and women's education also, as had been underlined in numerous Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) mission reports.

74. Another reason for the existing resource situation might be that, in the past, emphasis in public statements had been placed on the enormous difficulties associated with population policies rather than on their undeniable success, once a political commitment had been achieved and translated into effective action. Such emphasis tended to discourage rather

than motivate any deep involvement in the matter. In the future, population policy would perhaps require to be communicated in a more self-confident manner.

75. The renewed focus on the global dimensions of development problems and, in particular, on the vicious spiral of poverty, population growth and environmental degradation, might also be of benefit to the financial resource side of population policies. It had long been recognized that mutual interest was a better broker than altruism.

76. If UNFPA was to be in the forefront of such development, it would need to play a more active role in such fields as, for example, migration, where the global dimensions of unprecedented population growth were particularly obvious. Her delegation was confident that UNFPA could face up to that challenging task.

77. Mutual confidence between UNDP and UNFPA on the one hand and their members on the other had been emphasized in the President's opening remarks. Her delegation believed that a strengthening of that confidence might also express itself in increased financial contributions.

78. There was wide scope for fostering the good relations between UNFPA and its members, but the very limited period devoted by the Governing Council to UNFPA was not conducive to such development. The character of UNFPA-conducted evaluations, in large part not undertaken on independent terms, and the current financial monitoring system were other areas where a modification could contribute to a more intensified relationship between UNFPA and its members.

79. She was happy to announce that, in 1992, her Government had increased its contributions to UNFPA for the second year running, after a few years of stagnation. That was a sign of her Government's continued trust in UNFPA's outstanding achievements and capacities in the population field. One area in which partnership could be fostered was that of increased collaboration with UNICEF, and she commended the report which UNFPA had presented to the Governing Council on that issue (DP/1992/28).

80. While her delegation regretted that references to family planning had been deleted in the UNCED context, it welcomed the fact that UNFPA's Executive Director was to be Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

81. New needs and overwhelming challenges had emerged in the context of worldwide political change, as had been clearly established by the shocking findings of the recent UNICEF/WHO missions to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States. Ways had to be found to alleviate the enormous suffering in that region without redirecting funds from the South to the East. The best way would undoubtedly be to increase the overall resources of UNFPA, and she was confident of the Fund's capacity to prepare the fundamental ground for such resource increases. In that connection, her delegation wished to repeat its invitation to the United States of America to rejoin the group of donors to UNFPA.

82. Mr. SERRATE-CUELLAR (Bolivia) said that his delegation endorsed the general approach adopted by the Executive Director as well as the criteria outlined by the Administrator of UNDP, who had drawn particular attention to the widening gap between the rich and the poor which had reached a ratio of 150 to 1 in terms of per capita income.

83. His delegation believed that that gap must be a prime consideration in orienting population policies. It was not true that there was greater population growth in the developing countries, nor was it a fact that such growth was the cause of the population problem. The issue should be looked at the other way round. Development would enable the developing countries to achieve more effectively planned population growth. Greater development in the developing countries would give them greater freedom of choice. Moreover, population growth was not the prime consideration, although development must take population issues into account.

84. Development was the first priority, because it would enable the developing countries to establish the crucial links between population policies, environmental policies and overall development policies. The environment was being affected not by population itself but by the rupture in the harmony between people and their environment. There were, for instance, development models which were not in harmony with the environment, and some countries had not been given the opportunity to join freely and fully those international mechanisms which were available to assist economic development and growth.

85. In the case of population policies, it was very important that the issue should be addressed in terms of freedom of choice rather than in terms of coercion. Freedom of choice related to education and development levels and, in addition, it covered freedom of association, freedom of access to markets, free movement of people and the free transfer of science and knowledge. As long as the causes of the crisis were not faced, all countries would continue to live in an insecure world.

86. Such threats to peace could be countered only if priority was given to those sectors referred to in the Executive Director's report, namely, education, primary health care and nutrition, none of which areas benefited from much multinational cooperation; not more than 10 per cent of international cooperation funds were currently being devoted to them. Education, in particular, was fundamental to population policy, and there should therefore be a greater link between UNFPA and the United Nations organ dealing with the subject.

87. He agreed with the representative of Germany that population policy must also take account of migration issues. Approximately 38 million people joined the labour market in the developing countries every year with the result that about 70 million people from developing countries, including seasonal workers, refugees and displaced persons, moved every year. Migration on such a scale concerned the developed as well as the developing countries and called for a global solution in terms of population policy. Control measures were not sufficient. Population policy must be combined with emphasis on employment

generation. Policies which concentrated on giving aid or controlling situations did not encourage the increased investment which would generate additional employment opportunities.

88. Ms. KEPPENS (Belgium), having noted the positive figures concerning family planning in the developing countries, said that the work of UNFPA had contributed to increased awareness of the problem and that much credit was due to the Executive Director for the Fund's constant efforts in the demographic field.

89. The striking of a balance between population and available resources must be a major objective in the future if increased poverty was to be avoided. Demographic growth also limited sustained development and harmed the environment. Her delegation accordingly welcomed the efforts made by UNFPA to have the demographic issue included in the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

90. On the whole, her delegation agreed with the distribution of resources in 1991 and the programme of activities for 1993-1996 and, in particular, the importance attached to the family-planning sector. It would welcome greater emphasis on that aspect in Africa, where population growth threatened the future of development.

91. Education and information went hand in hand with family planning. In particular, it was important to provide information to adolescents regarding the need to achieve responsible child-bearing. The cooperation of the local authorities was a precondition for success in developing social awareness.

92. Her delegation supported UNFPA's activities in the campaign against AIDS and particularly its cooperation with other United Nations bodies in that field. The campaign against AIDS should, however, form part of a programme to combat all sexually transmitted diseases.

93. Her delegation wished to thank UNFPA for the periodic report on evaluation (DP/1992/25) which contained, inter alia, the results of the Fund's Global Programme of Training in Population and Development. She stressed the need to strengthen contacts between the international training centre in population development planning (CIDEP) and the developing countries with a view to facilitating the transfer of CIDEP from Belgium to a developing country. Her Government would provide financial support for the centre for the period 1992-1995. She appealed to the Governments of developing countries to encourage persons trained by the Global Programme to participate in development planning and hoped that more permanent links would be established between the trainees and the Global Programme. The conversion of the Moscow State University Programme into a series of refresher courses on selected topics was welcome.

94. Her Government was fully aware of the importance of the population problem and, pursuant to the Amsterdam Declaration and subject to parliamentary approval, would increase its contribution to UNFPA by more than 20 per cent. It would also provide financial support to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

95. Mr. van ARENDONK (Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA), introducing the progress report on UNFPA successor support cost arrangements (DP/1992/30), recalled that, at its thirty-eighth session in 1991, the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director to submit a progress report on the number, fields of technical competence and geographical deployment of technical support services teams, taking into account the priorities given to UNFPA by the Governing Council; to report on the actual and envisaged location of the teams; and to submit more information on the terms of reference and working relationships among the various parties to the arrangements.

96. As a follow-up to the Governing Council decision, UNFPA had convened two inter-agency consultative meetings in July and October 1991 to discuss administrative, substantive and financial issues with its partner agencies in the United Nations system. In July 1991, the Inter-Agency Task Force had helped UNFPA to elaborate the details of implementation and to formulate draft Guidelines on Technical Support Services. At the Inter-Agency Task Force meeting in October 1991, agreement had been reached on the location of teams; job descriptions had been reviewed and information shared on candidates for team leaders and on incumbents; matters concerning general-service staff, equipment and budgetary financial arrangements had been reviewed; and revisions had been suggested for the Guidelines.

97. The United Nations and its regional commissions had attended the October 1991 meeting of the Task Force. In addition, separate meetings between the United Nations and UNFPA had been held during that period. He was pleased to report that the United Nations had fully agreed to commence activities as from January 1993. In the meantime, as part of the transitional arrangements, UNFPA was continuing to reimburse the United Nations at the rate of 13 per cent for all country-project expenditures and for the specific costs of administrative and operational services for intercountry programme execution.

98. As for the number, fields of technical competence and geographical deployment of team members, he wished to report that, of the 164 technical experts to be recruited by 1995, 93 were currently in place. That figure included 57 incumbents (39 out of 120 team members and 18 out of 36 headquarters and 8 regional posts) and 36 United Nations positions currently under discussion. By discipline, the 39 incumbents engaged for the TSS positions included 22 in IEC, 7 in MCH/FP, 9 in population-policy formulation, evaluation and implementation and 1 in population, women and development. The 18 incumbents engaged for headquarters posts were: 3 in FAO; 7 in ILO; 1 in UNESCO and 7 in WHO.

99. The number of persons and the disciplines represented in each team followed the requirements of the countries served. They also reflected the needs within each of the major priorities of UNFPA activity: 26 in MCH/FP; 35 in IEC; 21 in population-policy formulation, evaluation and implementation; 20 in basic data collection and population dynamics; 7 in women, population and development; and 11 in other categories. He also wished to stress that the recruitment of 7 advisers on women, population and development reflected the Fund's concern to increase women's participation.

In recognition of the importance of sociocultural research, provision had been made for the recruitment of 2 advisers whose main function was to apply and promote the use of findings in sociocultural research in population-related endeavours. In addition, certain team members would be selected on the basis of their knowledge of sociocultural factors and their role in population and family planning efforts.

100. The selection of team leaders was currently under way and six team leaders had been invited to serve in Bangkok, Kathmandu, Santiago, Amman, Addis Ababa and Dakar, respectively. The search for two other team leaders to serve in Suva and Harare was continuing. The selected team leaders had undergone a successful orientation programme in March 1992. Following an intensive five-day programme at UNFPA headquarters, they had met with counterpart staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York. They had subsequently visited the headquarters of UNESCO, FAO, ILO and WHO for extensive discussions with technical specialists/coordinators on the new TSS arrangements and how those arrangements should interrelate with the mandate and structure of the participating agencies.

101. The teams were expected to be operational by June/July 1992. The team leaders were visiting their respective sites to negotiate with host Governments on facilities. He had himself engaged in preliminary discussions on the issue with government authorities in Amman, Bangkok and Kathmandu. Guided by a concern for cost-effectiveness, UNFPA was making every effort to utilize existing space and avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities.

102. In the context of strengthened decentralization, UNFPA offices were expected to play a key role in the implementation of the technical support services arrangements. UNFPA country directors/UNFPA representatives had been requested to submit two-year technical backstopping plans for countries under their responsibility. On the basis of those plans, the team leaders would prepare the work plans of their respective teams whose primary purpose was to provide countries with high-quality technical-support services to meet country needs, leading towards national self-reliance in the population field.

103. UNFPA had also requested participating agencies to prepare work plans for headquarters members, specifying the proposed activities to backstop members of the technical-support teams and countries. That would provide a valuable input to each team leader in the preparation of the team's work plan and keep IATF members well informed about the activities of TSS agency headquarters staff in support of the TSTs and country programmes and projects.

104. UNFPA and participating agencies had also agreed on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the success of the new arrangements. Annual review reports from the country director/UNFPA representative would indicate the status of all items in the technical backstopping plans and the reasons for any departures from the proposals. On the basis of the reports which TSS personnel were required to prepare after every mission, the team leader would submit an annual monitoring report as well as an annual assessment report of team members. The agencies would also provide UNFPA with a detailed report on the work of their TSS staff posted at headquarters and in the field. UNFPA would then prepare a report on the overall performance of the teams and on the

effectiveness of backstopping services for consideration by the Task Force, which was responsible for monitoring TST work plans and agency work plans on an annual basis.

105. By the time all teams were operational in 1995, UNFPA would have organized an independent evaluation of successor support costs arrangements and would report on their effectiveness to the Governing Council at its forty-second session.

106. UNFPA considered the recruitment of the remaining two team leaders essential to the full implementation of the TSS arrangements. It hoped that suitable candidates could soon be identified, interviewed and selected. In the meantime, the selected team leaders had started the process of installing the offices, reviewing candidates for general-support staff, identifying NGOs which could participate in those arrangements, negotiating with Governments to obtain facilities and making arrangements with UNDP/UNFPA field offices for administrative support.

107. In order to ensure the success of those new arrangements, UNFPA also planned to undertake training and orientation for all TST members as well as for field office staff. Indeed, some field staff had already been briefed on the TSS arrangements during the country directors' meetings held at Kingston and Tunis in 1991. For those in Asia and the Pacific region, it was planned to hold special briefing sessions on the TSS arrangements in Bali in August 1992. For those in Africa, the item would be included in the agenda of the country directors' meeting at Dakar in November. Furthermore, the team leaders would be invited to attend meetings in their respective regions for the purpose of maximizing the utilization of the services of the technical-support teams.

108. UNFPA was also convening another meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force in June 1992 to discuss and resolve the remaining obstacles to full implementation of the TSS arrangements, such as selection of candidates for vacant TSS posts, finalization of the draft TSS guidelines; review of the agreement with host Governments; and the transfer of equipment from agencies to the teams.

109. He reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to maximize the use of resources of the United Nations system and cooperating NGOs in bringing high-quality technical-support services to developing countries. The mechanisms for implementing those new arrangements, which UNFPA had carefully elaborated to be cost-effective, collaborative and cost-transparent, testified to its firm resolve to support the population programmes of the countries requesting them.

110. Introducing the report on guidelines on national execution (DP/1992/29), he recalled that, at its thirty-eighth session, the Governing Council had requested UNFPA to submit such guidelines, taking into account the Fund's previous experience in that area. The guidelines were in keeping with relevant General Assembly and Governing Council decisions and were based on the findings of an extensive assessment of accumulated experience in the population field.

111. He stressed that the new support-costs arrangements approved by the Governing Council in decision 91/37 would also facilitate the further assumption by Governments of the management of programmes and projects financed by UNFPA, consistent with greater national execution of such programmes.

112. UNFPA's active support for the national execution of UNFPA-assisted population projects dated back to the early 1970s. Its purpose continued to be to help Governments to develop existing national capacity for the management of population programmes and to make optimum use of existing institutions, with a view to ultimate national self-reliance. That meant that, in the end, the Government or other national institutions would assume overall responsibility, legal and financial accountability for the management of a UNFPA-funded project/programme.

113. He was pleased to report that, particularly during the past four years, there had been an increase in the number of projects or project components executed by Governments. That had been helped by a strong commitment by Governments to its population policy and programme, which UNFPA considered a decisive factor in national execution.

114. However, there was need for caution in that regard. Although the national capability for executing projects had improved over time in most countries assisted by UNFPA, many Governments still lacked the technical capacity to execute some projects or components of projects, especially those requiring international institutional networks and actions. For example, some Governments were still unable to administer project components such as the provision of overseas fellowships, regional workshops and study tours. Others had preferred that UNFPA or other international executing agencies, which were better equipped should procure supplies from abroad and recruit international consultants. Many Governments had also been unable to pay national consultants at rates competitive with those outside the public sector.

115. Thus, although many countries had developed the capacity and willingness to execute UNFPA-assisted projects directly, many were still unable to do so. In recognition of that situation, UNFPA had adopted a gradualistic approach that was responsive to the development needs of the country assisted. In consultation with Governments, it had pursued different modes of execution as appropriate: direct execution by Governments; execution shared by a national executing agent and an international agent such as a United Nations organ and/or NGOs; and execution by an international agent. However, irrespective of the mode of execution, UNFPA had always recognized that the Government owned the project and remained in overall charge of it.

116. Some of the obstacles which needed to be overcome in order to achieve full realization of national execution were the following: problems in financial and administrative management; limited institutional capacity which had resulted in weak technical backstopping; and differences in administrative procedures, time-frames and financial cycles between UNFPA and the national executing agents.

117. UNFPA remained fully committed to minimizing those constraints. To that end, it constantly reviewed its policies and procedures. It was developing operational guidelines on national execution and was strengthening its training of national staff in the Fund's administrative and financial procedures as well as in its monitoring and evaluation procedures.

118. UNFPA was taking steps to harmonize its activities with government planning cycles and with the related activities of United Nations bodies. It had supported, and continued to support, the strengthening of national institutions through training. It had increased the ability of its country directors to respond more quickly to opportunities to use local NGOs in UNFPA programmes. Through its innovative Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercises, its was constantly looking for ways to strengthen the capacity of the country for government/national execution. Each PRSD mission was required to make a careful assessment of capacity for national execution and its recommendations were incorporated, where appropriate, in the resulting country programme.

119. UNFPA was taking every possible step towards the realization of national execution. Much still needed to be done, but UNFPA remained strongly committed to that goal and was making every effort to facilitate the achievement of that objective.

120. Ms. MAGUIRE (United States of America) said, with regard to the progress report on successor arrangements for agency-support costs (DP/1992/30), that her delegation was pleased to note the progress made under UNFPA's leadership in planning for more effective technical support to field activities. It trusted that the remaining details would be resolved and that the implementation of the new successor support cost arrangements would be monitored carefully.

121. As for the composition and activities of the technical support teams, a strong prior record of relevant experience in training and family planning should be essential for team members who were to specialize in MCH/family planning. As suggested in the report, special expertise in management information systems and logistics management was also essential.

122. In the area of population policy, team members should have capabilities that extended beyond the integration of population planning into overall development planning and included strategic planning and resource mobilization within the population sector itself.

123. Similarly, the concerns of IEC specialists should extend beyond general population education and the promotion of family planning to include the needs of potential clients for accurate information about specific available methods and services.

124. Her delegation shared the conviction that knowledge of sociocultural factors was important for strengthening family planning. Her Government's experience suggested, however, that, in societies where there was rapid sociocultural change and cultural diversity, the policy and programmatic implications of sociocultural research were not always straightforward. In

those conditions, other relevant demographic, behavioural, biomedical and operations research might be equally or more useful, and team members should have the demonstrated capacity to apply those other areas of research.

125. With respect to the guidelines on national execution (DP/1992/29), her delegation supported the continued efforts of UNFPA to promote national execution of programmes and projects. That approach was consistent with USAID's bilateral assistance programmes, which had long supported national execution of population projects as a means of enhancing capabilities among public and private-sector institutions, making effective use of local human resources and, ultimately, promoting sustainability of population programmes. In many developing countries, the active participation of national and local institutions in all phases of programme activities had greatly enhanced technical skills and contributed to the more favourable policy environment for population activities that currently prevailed in many countries.

126. Her delegation shared UNFPA's recognition that increased national responsibility for executing programmes was necessary to improve the financial and administrative management of projects by national institutions. It also agreed that, owing to institutional and infrastructural shortcomings, some countries would continue to require more technical assistance than others to conduct effective and efficient population programmes. In the light of those realities, her delegation commended UNFPA for its procedures to assess the capabilities of countries to manage population programmes; its efforts to develop criteria for selecting appropriate national executing agents; its recommendations for ensuring the financial accountability of executing agents; and its commitment to provide continued technical assistance to strengthen national project execution and coordination capabilities.

127. It was her delegation's belief that UNFPA's efforts to promote successful national execution of population programmes and projects would contribute to stronger family planning and health institutions in the developing countries in the future.

128. Mr. SINGH (Director, UNFPA Technical and Evaluation Division), introducing the periodic report on evaluation (DP/1992/25), said that it had been prepared in response to the requests made by the Governing Council in 1982 and 1988. Since the previous report submitted to the Governing Council two years previously, several major developments had taken place in that area.

129. The first was the centralization of the evaluation process. In earlier stages, evaluation had been an exercise conducted basically by the Evaluation Branch of UNFPA. It had been expected to be an independent in-depth evaluation that would be fed into the final assessment of the results of projects or programmes and lead to the formulation, continuation, or establishment of new projects as a result of the experience gained. That process had been changed to the extent that the evaluation of projects and country programmes had become the responsibility of either the executing agency concerned, in relation to projects, or the field office, in relation to country programmes. Responsibility had thus devolved on the executing agency and/or the field office at the country level.

130. The second development had been the establishment of the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise, which sought to bring together the results of the experience gained, the situation analysis of the country and the formulation of a strategy for future use by all those concerned.

131. Since the initiation of the process in 1989, there had been a large number of PRSD exercises. In each of those exercises, the team sent to the country to undertake the evaluation had taken into account a background document which had been prepared locally, with the help of a consultant, and evaluated the overall project implemented in the country concerned. It must be recognized that the quality of those documents varied in terms of professionalism and contribution to the formulation of future strategy. The Evaluation Branch of UNFPA had not so far been directly involved in the preparation of the background documents, but it had been decided that either a staff member would be sent to the country concerned or a consultant appointed to participate in the preparation of those documents.

132. The evaluation of actual projects had become an ongoing exercise. All project documents accepted by UNFPA had to include an item concerning monitoring and evaluation. As indicated in the report under consideration, the number of such programme evaluations had increased considerably. It was true that the quality varied and one way of ensuring that the same considerations applied to the evaluation of all the projects was to see to it that a certain amount of training became an essential part of UNFPA's activities. The document therefore referred to the training activity that had already taken place and the training exercises that needed to be undertaken in the future. As staff and consultants gained more experience and familiarized themselves with the recently finalized guidelines, the quality of the reports would improve.

133. At the intercountry level, UNFPA intended to focus on the following topics in the next two years: quality of family-planning services and outreach programmes for adolescents and young mothers; community-based delivery of family-planning services; evaluation of IEC components in support of family-planning programmes; and evaluation of income-generating activities for women. In addition, it was planned to undertake two regional evaluations in Asia and the Pacific region on local contraceptive production.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.